

# Environmental Quality

## **General Overview**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was established in 1995 by Executive Order 1995-19, which separated the environmental regulation and natural resources functions of the Department of Natural Resources. The DEQ's mission is "To drive improvements in environmental quality for the protection of public health and natural resources to benefit current and future generations. This will be accomplished through the effective administration of agency programs, providing for the use of innovative strategies, while helping foster a strong and sustainable economy."

Approximately half of DEQ staff work at Lansing headquarters, with the remaining located in 8 district and field offices throughout the State. The Department has 1,561.7 appropriated FTEs.

## **Major Divisions and Programs**

**Air Quality.** This division enforces compliance with Federal and State statutes, issues air quality permits, inspects air emission sources, and monitors outdoor air quality.

**Land and Water Management Division.** This division oversees regulations pertaining to shoreline protection, marinas, dams, roads, and dredging/filling of lakes, streams, and wetlands. It also collects and disseminates geologic information.

**Office of Geologic Survey.** This office implements oil, gas, mineral production, and sand dunes. It also oversees metallic mineral mining and reclamation.

**Remediation and Redevelopment Division.** The division provides for cleanup activities on contaminated sites, financial and technical assistance to local governments, and liability protection for pre-existing site contamination.

**Waste and Hazardous Materials Division.** This division regulates hazardous and solid waste, issues permits, provides funding for scrap tire cleanup, assists with solid waste planning, handles the registration and certification of underground and aboveground storage tanks, investigation of leaking tanks, and the regulation and monitoring of radioactive waste nuclear facilities.

**Water Bureau.** This division issues surface water discharge permits, monitors water quality standards, investigates complaints, and reviews wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Environmental health activities, provided primarily through local health departments, including groundwater protections such as wellhead protection and regulation, swimming pool, campground, and mobile home regulation are housed in this division.